A large number of candidates apply for Defence Service examination every year judging from the number of applicants for officers vacancies at the induction level; it can not be said that the career in armed forces has become less attractive resulting into shortage of officers at the junior level.

In the case of Army; where the magnitude of vacancy is large; the Government have decided to implement a project 'Image Projection of Army' with the help of professional media agencies to highlight the unique and positive features of Army as a fulfilling career to attract potential youths to join Army. In the case of Navy and Air Force the Government are making all out efforts to encourage induction of young people in Navy and Air Force giving greater publicity in newspapers and media in order to get the best.

Various measures have been initiated to make up the shortage in the officer cadre such as University Entry Scheme; exemption from appearing in Combined Defence Service Examination for NCC 'C' Certificate holders and Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO); induction of women as officer; promotion of serving JCOs/ORs into the newly created Special Comissioned Officer (SCOs) cadre.

The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended improved pay scales; allowances and concessions to the Armed Forces Personnel in the report submitted to the Government. The Government after due consideration of the grievances of the Armed Forces personnel have decided to improve upon some of the Pay Commission recommendations.

गैर सरकारी क्षेत्र में आयुध सामग्री का निर्माण करने वाले कारखाने

2361. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में 30 जून, 1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में कितने आयुध कारखाने थे और इनमें से प्रत्येक कारखाने की उत्पादन क्षमता कितनी-कितनी विहित की गई है, ;

(ख) इन कारखानों में वर्ष 1992-93 से लेकर 1996-97 तक वास्तव में, प्रतिवर्ष, कितना-कितना उत्पादन किया,

(ग) इस अवधि के दौरान इन कारखानों में से प्रत्येक कारखाने ने क्षेत्र के विकास, पर्यावरण सुधार और सामाजिक दायित्वों के निर्वहन के लिए कितनी-कितनी धनराशि व्यय की, और

(घ) इन दायित्वों के निर्वहन के लिए इन कारखानों द्वारा किए गए कार्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० वी० एन० सोमू) : (क) निजी क्षेत्र में कोई आयुध निर्माणी स्थापित नहीं की गई है। मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में कोई आयुध निर्माणी नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ): ऊपर (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Indigenous|imported defence armaments

2362. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 30 per cent of defence armaments

and other war capabilities are indigenous and 70 per cent are imported; if not; what is the percentage of indigenous manufactured items *vis-a-vis* the imported;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the supplying Nations are forcing on us obsolete and outdated material;

(c) whether it is a fact that requirement of Air Force training Jet aircraft has been pending for long time despite major mishaps; if so; what is the reason for the delay; and

(d) whether it is a fact that out of total import; 70 per cent is procured from erstwhile Russian block countries; if so; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) 10-year national mission for enhancing self reliance in defence system was launched in 1995. At that time; it was estimated that 30 per cent of annual defence acquisitions were made from indigenous sources and 70 per cent were through imports.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircraft are in progress. The acquisition of the AJT has been projected in the Ninth Plan.

(d) A majority of imported defence systems are of erstwhile Russian block origin. However, the exact percentage varies on year to year basis depending upon the specific requirements.

R & D Defence Budget

2363. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total percentage of defence budget for research and development;

(b) whether it is inclusive of development of missiles; and

(c) what is the allocation for other developments such as Automatic Rifles; ammunitions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The budget allocation for Defence Research & Development is 5.24 per cent of total Defence budget for the year 1997-98.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The yearly budget allocation for specific Defence R & D projects is decided based upon the specific milestones planned to be achieved during the year. It is not in national security interest to disclose the yearly budget allocation for each of such R&D Projects.

Production of defence aircrafts

2364. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to increase the production of defence aircrafts;

(b) whether the aircrafts are being manufactured only by HAL or in collaboration with any foreign company; and

(c) if so, the target set for the production of aircrafts for the country's defence by 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Production capacities for various types of aircraft have been set up at M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), to meet the futuristic requirements of our Armed Forces, para military forces and the likely civilian requirements.